

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

These amendments introduce no new matter and support for the changes is replete throughout the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed. These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or agreement with any objection or rejection of record.

Listing of Claims:

1-34. (Cancelled).

35. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a chimeric negative strand RNA virus, comprising culturing host cell transfected with plasmid cDNAs containing a heterologous nucleotide sequence operatively linked to a binding site specific for an RNA-directed RNA polymerase of a negative strand RNA virus, wherein the host cell expresses a polymerase protein, and recovering a chimeric virus from culture.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 35 wherein the host cell constitutively expresses the polymerase protein.

37. (Withdrawn) A chimeric virus recovered from the method of Claim 35.

38. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a chimeric negative strand RNA virus, comprising culturing a host cell transfected with plasmid DNAs containing a heterologous nucleotide sequence operatively linked to a binding site specific for an RNA-directed RNA polymerase of a negative strand RNA virus, and with plasmid DNAs containing nucleotide sequences which encode an RNA polymerase protein, and recovering a chimeric virus from culture.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 38 wherein the chimeric virus is influenza virus.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 39 wherein the heterologous RNA segment is derived from another strain of influenza virus.

41. (Withdrawn) A chimeric virus recovered from the method of Claim 39.

42. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a chimeric negative strand RNA virus comprising culturing a host cell transfected with plasmid cDNAs containing the nucleotide

sequences encoding eight genomic segments from different strains of influenza virus, each of the segments comprising the reverse complement of an mRNA coding sequence for an RNA-directed RNA polymerase of a negative strand virus, wherein the host cell expresses an RNA polymerase protein, and recovering a chimeric virus from culture.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 42 wherein the host cell constitutively expresses the polymerase protein.

44. (Withdrawn) A chimeric virus recovered from the method of Claim 42.

45. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a chimeric negative strand RNA virus, comprising culturing a host cell transfected with plasmid cDNAs containing a heterologous nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence mutated from a wildtype sequence of the negative strand RNA virus, operatively linked to a binding site specific for an RNA-directed RNA polymerase of a negative strand RNA virus, wherein the host cell expresses a polymerase protein and recovering a chimeric virus from culture.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45 wherein the sequence mutated is a site specific mutation.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 45 wherein the virus is influenza.

48. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of for~~ producing influenza a negative strand RNA virus, the method comprising: a) culturing a host cell that comprises i) replicable influenza RNA molecules transcribed from a DNA-dependent ~~transfected with plasmid cDNAs containing a nucleotide sequence operatively linked to a binding site specific for an RNA-directed RNA polymerase of a negative strand RNA virus; and ii) vector DNA that encodes and expresses influenza RNA polymerase and nucleoprotein, such that the influenza RNA polymerase replicates the influenza RNA molecules; wherein the host cell expresses a polymerase protein, and, b) recovering the a influenza virus from the culture.~~

49. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 48 wherein the host cell constitutively expresses the polymerase protein.

50. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a negative strand RNA virus, comprising culturing a host cell transfected with plasmid DNAs containing a nucleotide sequence operatively

linked to a binding site specific for an RNA-directed RNA polymerase of a negative strand RNA virus, and with plasmid DNAs containing nucleotide sequences which encode an RNA polymerase protein, and recovering a virus from culture.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 48 or 50 wherein the virus is influenza virus.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 48 or 50 wherein the plasmid DNA contains a heterologous nucleotide sequence.

53. (Withdrawn) A virus recovered from the method of Claim 52.

54. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the vector DNA encodes PA, PB1, PB2, and NP.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein PA, PB1, PB2, and NP are encoded by separate vectors.

56. (New) The method of claim 48, 54, or 55, wherein the DNA comprises cDNA.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the influenza RNA molecules encode a modified influenza gene.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the gene is HA.

59. (New) The method of claim 48, 54, or 55, wherein one or more of PA, PB1, PB2, and NP are constitutively expressed by the cell.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the influenza RNA molecules encode a modified influenza gene.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the gene is HA.